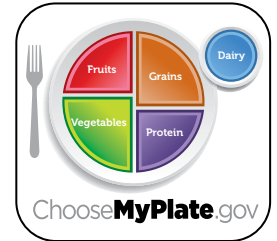


# 10 tips

Nutrition  
Education Series

# snack tips for parents



## 10 tips for healthy snacking

**Snacks can help children get the nutrients needed to grow and maintain a healthy weight.**

Prepare single-serving snacks for younger children to help them get just enough to satisfy their hunger. Let older kids make their own snacks by keeping healthy foods in the kitchen. Visit [ChooseMyPlate.gov](http://ChooseMyPlate.gov) to help you and your kids select a satisfying snack.

### 1 save time by slicing veggies

Store sliced vegetables in the refrigerator and serve with dips like hummus or low-fat dressing. Top half a whole-wheat English muffin with spaghetti sauce, chopped vegetables, and low-fat shredded mozzarella and melt in the microwave.

### 2 mix it up

For older school-age kids, mix dried fruit, unsalted nuts, and popcorn in a snack-size bag for a quick trail mix. Blend plain fat-free or low-fat yogurt with 100% fruit juice and frozen peaches for a tasty smoothie.



### 3 grab a glass of milk

A cup of low-fat or fat-free milk or milk alternative (soy milk) is an easy way to drink a healthy snack.

### 4 go for great whole grains

Offer whole-wheat breads, popcorn, and whole-oat cereals that are high in fiber and low in added sugars, saturated fat, and sodium. Limit refined-grain products such as snack bars, cakes, and sweetened cereals.



### 5 nibble on lean protein

Choose lean protein foods such as low-sodium deli meats, unsalted nuts, or eggs. Wrap sliced, low-sodium deli turkey or ham around an apple wedge. Store unsalted nuts in the pantry or peeled, hard-cooked (boiled) eggs in the refrigerator for kids to enjoy any time.

### 6 keep an eye on the size

Snacks shouldn't replace a meal, so look for ways to help your kids understand how much is enough. Store snack-size bags in the cupboard and use them to control serving sizes.

### 7 fruits are quick and easy

Fresh, frozen, dried, or canned fruits can be easy "grab-and-go" options that need little preparation. Offer whole fruit and limit the amount of 100% juice served.



### 8 consider convenience

A single-serving container of low-fat or fat-free yogurt or individually wrapped string cheese can be just enough for an after-school snack.



### 9 swap out the sugar

Keep healthier foods handy so kids avoid cookies, pastries, or candies between meals. Add seltzer water to a ½ cup of 100% fruit juice instead of offering soda.

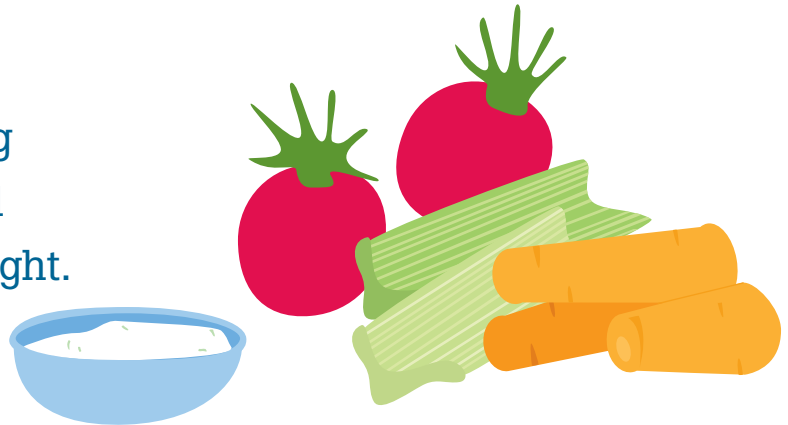
### 10 prepare homemade goodies

For homemade sweets, add dried fruits like apricots or raisins and reduce the amount of sugar. Adjust recipes that include fats like butter or shortening by using unsweetened applesauce or prune puree for half the amount of fat.

# parent tips

## Healthy Snacks—100 Calories or Less

Snacking is good when you feel hungry between meals. Choosing *healthy* snacks will help you and your family stay at a healthy weight.



Here are some healthy snacks—all 100 calories or less.

### Fruits

- 1 small banana
- 1 medium apple
- ¼ cup raisins
- 1 cup whole strawberries
- ½ cup canned fruit cocktail in juice (not syrup)
- ½ cup orange juice

### Vegetables

- 1 cup cherry or grape tomatoes
- 2 cups raw mixed veggies with 2 tablespoons fat-free dressing
- 12 baby carrots
- 18 small celery sticks
- 1 cup raw cauliflower
- 1 cup low-sodium vegetable juice



### Breads, Cereals, Rice, and Pasta

- ½ cup oat circles cereal
- 2 graham cracker squares
- 3 cups air-popped popcorn
- ½ whole-wheat English muffin with jelly
- 4 whole-wheat crackers, unsalted
- 2 brown rice and multigrain rice cakes

### Fat-free or Low-fat Milk, Cheese, and Yogurt

- 6 ounces cup fat-free plain yogurt
- ½ cup low-fat cottage cheese
- 1 cup fat-free milk
- ½ cup fat-free pudding
- ½ cup fat-free frozen yogurt
- 1 ounce low-fat cheddar cheese

### Other Snacks

- 1 large hardboiled egg
- 8 baked tortilla chips with salsa
- 10 almonds

Source: USDA National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference, Release 19

**We Can!** is a program from the National Institutes of Health that offers resources for parents, caregivers and communities to help children 8-13 years old stay at a healthy weight through eating right, increasing physical activity, and reducing screen time.

To learn more, go to <http://wecan.nhlbi.nih.gov> or call 1-866-35-WECAN.

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